



# Bullard Ave. retailers struggle during construction

**Jessica Coomes**

The Arizona Republic

Nov. 29, 2007 09:14 AM

Access to Bullard Avenue businesses south of Interstate 10 is restricted at the freeway as construction crews widen the road and build an interchange.

Retailers say fewer people have been stopping in to shop since the road was closed this summer.

The businesses, which now are accessed only from Van Buren Street, are expected to remain isolated until the widening project wraps up in March.

Andy Bishop, who opened Off Road Innovations on Bullard in May, described the street as a ghost town when construction began.

"The walk-in traffic vanished the day they closed it," Bishop said, referring to Bullard.

Until this fall, construction crews were widening Van Buren in a separate project, which was another hurdle for the retailers. But Bishop said once that project was finished and a stoplight was installed at Van Buren and Bullard, foot traffic for his business increased.

"The traffic's coming back to where I have a normal amount of people coming through the shop again," Bishop said.

But his store, which sells and installs off-roading equipment, is new and he does not have old numbers for comparisons.

Linda Jacobs has not run the sales numbers at the Southwest Specialty Foods gift shop to see how much businesses has fallen. "I don't want to know."

She estimates foot traffic is down a third this year compared with last year.

"We just don't have nearly the traffic," said Jacobs, co-owner of the Goodyear store known for its Ass Kickin' Hot Sauce.

But when the Bullard interchange opens on I-10 next year, Jacobs expects even more cars will come down Bullard and see her business.

"It's going to be great," she said.

Robert Bermea, a salesman at the Kawasaki store, said sales have dropped since construction began, and the customers report that the store is hard to find.

"They have to make an extra effort to get to us," he said.

## Post a Comment

This is a public comment zone. Readers are solely responsible for the content of their posts and must comply with our [Terms of Service](#) and [Rules of Engagement](#). Report offensive content by clicking on the "Report abuse" link.

azcentral.com login required

- [sign in to post a comment](#) »
- [click here to register for a free account](#) »

Paco

[Report abuse](#)

0



1



rate comment:



I did not know there ever was any retailers on Bullard. God bless them.

[Shannon3264](#)

[Report abuse](#)

Posted  
Nov  
29 0

9:40  
AM

0



rate comment:



If you own an offroad vehicle definitely visit ORI...they are  
Provesome guys there and well worth a stop in!!!

Posted  
Nov  
-  
29  
3:14  
PM

Your Comment:

You must be logged in to post comments.

[Log In](#) | [Register](#)